COMPLETE CONSERVATION
FOR YOUR FARM

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

IOWA NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Solving your conservation problems

This book is intended to help you solve natural resource problems using a package of conservation practices and concepts. It is meant to help you look at all the resources on your land, with the goal of developing a complete conservation plan and a resource management system for your farm. The conservation system will be designed to protect all the resources on your farm—soil, water, air, plants and animals. This booklet should give you the basics—additional technical help is available from your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office at your USDA Service Center.

The goal of many landowners is to take care of their land, so as to leave it better than they found it.

Conservation measures work best together in systems

A single conservation practice may solve a problem, but conservation practices work best together—in a resource management system. The benefits of conservation practices are generally additive- for instance, small gullies can usually be stopped with grassed waterways or small structures (see pages 6-7). But the chosen practice will last longer and be more effective if the drainage area above the gully is managed to absorb more rainfall and reduce runoff. Or, cropland protected by contouring is even better protected if crop residues, or mulches, are left on the soil surface or if rowcrops are rotated with small grain, grass or legumes. This kind of farming promotes better soil and water quality as well as wildlife habitat. The use of several practices to solve multiple problems is called the "systems approach" to conservation. Ask your local conservationist for help in designing a complete conservation system for your land.

Technical help from the NRCS to plan and install conservation measures is free.

conservation improvements

Improving pastures, cropland and woodland are among conservation improvements you may consider for their land.

Roger Hill

Meeting the needs of fish and wildlife is one of a number of considerations in planning complete conservation systems on privately owned land.

Table of Contents